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~~1951~~

THE RURAL DISTRICT

OF

ST. AUSTELL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



To the Chairman and Councillors  
of the Rural District of St.Austell.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on  
the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for  
the year 1951.

The conditions prevailing throughout the district  
have been generally satisfactory apart from the fact that  
Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Paralysis were unduly  
prevalent.

I am indebted to Mr.Lawless, the Chief Sanitary  
Inspector and to Mr.Townsend, the Council's Engineer for  
considerable portions of this report.

I wish to thank Mr.Mitchell and the Heads of  
Departments and their Staffs for help and co-operation.

It is a pleasure to record gratitude to the Chairman  
and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued  
interest and support.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES TURNER.



SECTION A.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) 82,389

Population (Mid-year 1951) (Estimated) 20,470

Number of inhabited houses 6,225

Rateable value £82,304

Product of a penny rate £320

The Census population has been given as 20,833 indicating an error in previous estimates amounting to 363. There is a marked seasonal rise during the holiday period. The main occupations in the area are clayworking and agriculture. Both are healthy and the former is not associated with any industrial disease.

The district extends across the breadth of the County and has a northern and southern seaboard. As a result there are two types of climate - the northern, more bracing with slightly more sunshine and a slightly lower temperature than the southern, which is mild with prevailing S.W. winds. The mean annual temperature is about 51° F.

Rainfall. The rainfall recorded for the year amounted to 48.28 inches, precipitation occurring on 235 days. The maximum daily fall was 1.05 inches which occurred on 3rd November and again on 4th November. November was the wettest month with a total of 7.32 inches and June was driest with 0.62 inches. The longest period without rain was in April when there were 13 consecutive dry days.

This information is based on records kept at the Hendra Pumping Station.

Summary of Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Population</u>	
				<u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Legitimate	150	176	344	16.8	15.5
Illegitimate	14	5			

For comparison with other areas rate  
corrected for age and sex distribution 17.3

Still Births

Legitimate	1	3	4	0.19	0.36
Illegitimate	0	0			

<u>Deaths</u>	146	161	307	15.0	12.5
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For comparison with other areas rate  
corrected for age and sex distribution 13.05

<u>Deaths under 1 yr. of age - Infant Mortality</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Live Births</u>
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Legitimate	10	5	16	46.5	29.6
Illegitimate	0	1			

<u>Maternal Mortality</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Total Births</u>	
	1	1
	2.91	0.79

<u>Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Live Births</u>	
<u>Under 2 yrs. of age</u>	1	0
	1	1
	1.5	1.4



The birth rate remains higher than that for the country as a whole. The higher death rate is caused mainly by the higher number of infant deaths. The infant mortality remains high but the excess over that for England and Wales is not significant owing to the small numbers considered.

The following table gives the major causes of infant deaths:-

	Under 1 week	2	3	4	5 weeks- 12 mths.	Total
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	-	-	-	-	3
Prematurity	3	-	-	-	-	3
Malformation	2	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchopneumonia	-	-	-	-	5	5
Gastroenteritis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Inhalation of Vomit	-	-	-	-	1	1
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	1	1
	8	-	-	-	8	16

The three haemorrhage cases were the result of birth trauma. Three of the deaths due to bronchopneumonia had as their primary cause measles in one case and whooping cough in the other two. Every effort should be made to protect infants from exposure to whooping cough as the danger to life is great. It may be said that at least 50% of these infant deaths were preventable.

The following is a list of the causes of death during 1951, given in accordance with the Abbreviated List of the International List of 1948:-

	M.	F.
1) Tuberculosis, resp:	4	5
2) Syphilitic disease	2	-
3) Whooping cough	2	-
4) Meningococcal infect:	1	-
5) Acute poliomyelitis	1	-
6) Measles	-	1
7) Malig: neoplasm, stomach	5	6
8) " " lung, bronchus	3	1
9) " " breast	-	2
10) " " uterus	-	3
11) Other Malig: & lymphatic neoplasms	14	9
12) Diabetes	1	-
13) Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	26
14) Coronary disease, angina	15	9
15) Hypertension with heart disease	10	7
16) Other heart disease	27	35
17) Other circulatory disease	2	3
18) Influenza	4	10
19) Pneumonia	4	2
20) Bronchitis	12	3
21) Other diseases, resp. system	-	2
22) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2
23) Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-
24) Nephritis and nephrosis	-	5
25) Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
26) Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
27) Congenital malformations	1	1
28) Other defined and ill-defined dis.	15	24
29) All other accidents	6	3
30) Suicide	-	1
All causes	146	161

It will be seen that malignant disease caused 14% of all deaths.

The following brief table indicates the percentage distribution of ages at death:-

Age Group (years)	Males %	Females %
0 - 1	6.9	3.7
1 - 59	16.5	17.9
60 - 69	15.9	13.0
70 - 79	35.2	36.4
80 - 89	24.1	25.3
90 plus	1.4	3.7
All ages	100.0	100.0

#### SECTION B.

##### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

###### (a) Medical Officer of Health

J.G.S.Turner, M.B., D.P.H. 1st Jan. - 31st Dec.

###### (b) Sanitary Inspectors (whole time)

H.G.Lawless, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Food Inspectors' Certificate.  
T.J.Down, A.R.S.I.

##### Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

##### Diphtheria anti-toxin

A supply is maintained at the Health Area Office, St.Austell and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

##### Ambulance Facilities

These are provided from the main centres at St.Austell and Newquay and in addition from country centres at Indian Queens, St.Dennis and St.Blazey. The work carried out from the above centres during the year is shown in the following Tables. About one-third of the patients carried belonged to the Rural District.

###### (a) Ambulances.

	Patients	Miles
Newquay	939	20,612
St.Austell	<u>2,342</u>	<u>51,921</u>
Total	3,281	72,533

###### (b) Utilicars

Newquay	1,220	25,102
St.Austell	4,522	68,971

###### (c) Hospital Car Service

Newquay	963	16,405
St.Austell	1,003	15,136



(d) <u>County Centre Ambulances</u>	Patients	Miles
St.Dennis	69	2,658
Indian Queens	148	4,950
St.Blazey	155	6,900

Thanks are due to the voluntary organisations who helped, to Mrs.Batchelor and Mrs.Bellingham, Organisers of the Hospital Car Service, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided transport on request.

#### Nursing Services

The establishment of nurses who carry out domiciliary services is as follows:-

District Nurse - Midwife - Health	11
Whole-time Health Visitor	1

Some adjustments in the district boundaries are necessary. The services provided have worked smoothly.

#### Domiciliary Midwifery

All nurses are now trained in the use of gas/air anaesthesia and this is available to all patients.

#### Ante-Natal Care

There are no ante-natal clinics in the Rural area and all women are referred either to St.Austell or to Newquay.

#### Infant Welfare

The centre at St.Columb was closed early in the year owing to poor attendance. A new centre was opened at Roche, and this has proved to be very successful with an average attendance of 25. The scattered population and poor transport facilities have precluded the establishment of centres elsewhere.

#### Care and After Care

Two cases of tuberculosis were helped by grants from the County.

Young children on discharge from hospital are followed up by the district nurses.

#### Domestic Help Service

This service has worked well but difficulty has been experienced during the summer months in obtaining spare-time helps and there is still great difficulty in obtaining help for cases of tuberculosis. At the end of the year the establishment was increased to the equivalent of seven full-time helps.

Thanks are due to Miss Stokes and to the ladies who assist her in organising this service. A total of 25 persons of whom 12 were maternity cases were given help.

#### Hospitals

There is no hospital in the district and cases are sent to Newquay, Fowey and St.Austell District Hospitals, to the R.C.I. at Truro for special investigations and treatment, to Redruth in the case of maternity and to the Isolation Hospital at Truro in the case of infectious disease.



## Clinics

The following clinics are held at the places and dates indicated:-

Child Welfare	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday (Newquay - Ambulance Hall - Weekly - Thursday (Par - Gott Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday (Roche - Church Hall - Monthly
Ante-Natal	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - Weekly - Monday forenoon (Newquay - Hospital - Weekly - Monday afternoon
Orthopaedic	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - Weekly - Tuesday forenoon (Newquay - Hospital - Weekly - Monday
Tuberculosis	(St. Austell - Hospital - Weekly - Monday (Newquay - Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday
Dental	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - Every day (Newquay - Berry Road - Thrice weekly
Ophthalmic	(St. Austell - Aylmer Place - 2nd and 4th Wednesday (Newquay - Hospital - by arrangement
E.N.T.	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - by arrangement (Newquay - Hospital - by arrangement

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Conditions of the District

#### (1) Water

##### (i) New Construction (a) St. Mawgan & Trenance Water Scheme

Work on this scheme continued throughout the year.

The first supplies were made available to residents of the Trevenna and Higher Tolcarne areas on 15th June, on which date the scheme was officially opened at a Public Ceremony. During the summer, supplies were made available in Mawgan Porth and Trenance areas and by the end of the year the mains were approaching Trevarrian. The scheme will be completed by the laying of distribution mains in St. Mawgan village. This, it is anticipated, will be done by mid-summer 1952. A majority of the properties adjacent to the mains are taking a supply of water as the work proceeds.

##### (b) Queens, Fraddon, Summercourt Water Scheme

Tenders for the execution of this scheme were received in May and work began in August on the construction of the 75,000 gallon reservoir at Indian Queens.

Initial difficulties were experienced in the deliveries of pipes and fittings for distribution mains but these were partially overcome and pipelaying commenced at Black Cross at the end of December. It is now hoped that supplies of pipes and fittings will be sufficient to enable work to proceed without undue interruption.

##### (c) Curyan Vale Water Scheme

This scheme was completed and brought into operation in February and is augmenting the supply to the Parishes of St. Stephen and St. Dennis to the extent of approximately 40,000 gallons per day.

(d) Goonamarris - Fernleigh Link Main

This scheme was completed, by direct labour, in June and has resulted in improved supplies to consumers in that area.

(e) Lower Sticker Link Main and Farms Supply

A start is expected to be made on this scheme early in 1952.

(f) Relaying of main to The Retreat, St. Columb Major

This scheme, towards the cost of which the Regional Hospital Board is contributing, was substantially completed by the end of the year.

(g) Grampound - Borehole

In an endeavour to supplement the water supply to Grampound a 6" diameter borehole was drilled to a depth of 300 feet but no additional supply was tapped and the work was abandoned.

(ii) Water Samples

During the year 225 samples of water from various public supplies have been submitted for analysis with the following results:-

Satisfactory	171
Slightly contaminated	29
Unsafe for drinking	25
Total	<u>225</u>

In addition 22 private supplies were sampled with the following results:-

Satisfactory	11
Slightly contaminated	5
Unsafe for drinking	6
Total	<u>22</u>

(2) Sewerage

(a) Trewoon & Polgooth Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

A Public Inquiry was held at Polgooth in October by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Certain amendments to the design of the disposal works were required and these will be submitted to the Ministry in due course.

(b) Improvements to existing disposal works

During the year one percolating filter at each of the works at Goonamarris and St. Columb Road were rebuilt and new media introduced.

(c) Golant - Relaying outfall sewer

The relaying of the existing defective sewer was substantially completed by the end of the year.

(d) Cesspool Emptier

The work of this vehicle during the year has included the emptying of 171 privately owned cesspools, together with those on various Council Housing Estates and the desludging of certain tanks at the Council's sewage disposal works.



### (3) Disinfection

Terminal disinfections are carried out as required after cases of notifiable diseases.

### (4) Rodent Control

One operative was employed with a 10 cwt. truck which was purchased new in the early part of the year. The truck is used, in addition to its normal rodent work, as a means of transport of materials to the Council's housing maintenance workmen. The operative is also required to carry out disinfections and disinfestations of houses where necessary.

The following treatments were carried out during the year:-

Trade Premises	70
Domestic	1168
Authorities' Tips & Sewage Works	67
Block Controls	36
Farms inspected	143
Found to be infested	None - All treated by C.A.E.C.
Villages surveyed	48

The normal survey work was carried out in order to ascertain the presence of any infestation.

### (5) Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

Most of the district now has a weekly refuse collection made by the 3 refuse collecting vehicles. The only exceptions are some of the isolated areas and even these have either a monthly collection or a collection by arrangement.

The 4 uncontrolled tips are still in existence but the one at Grampound is filling up rapidly. In order that a suitable alternative would be available when required, permission was sought and obtained from the owner of land at Sticker to use a portion of it as a tip. Planning permission has been obtained.

### (6) Rivers and Streams

Many streams in the district are badly polluted. The newly formed Cornwall River Board has been taking some action to reduce pollution of the larger streams.

## SECTION D.

### Housing

#### Site Preparation.

Work continued on the construction of roads and sewers with the exception of a break from December 1950 to May 1951 when the weather made working conditions impossible. The work of surfacing roads, construction of footpaths and verge treatment is being delayed until the houses are erected.

#### (a) Extension of Creakavose Site, St. Stephen

A scheme has been prepared and tenders invited for road and sewer works. It is hoped that work will begin in the Spring of 1952.

#### (b) Trelowth Estate

Site works for the erection of 10 houses were substantially completed during the year.

(c) St. Ewe Estate

Site works for the erection of 6 houses were commenced in December.

Non-traditional houses

Erection of 68 Cornish Unit dwellings at St. Columb Road site commenced in June and it is expected that 2 houses at St. Dennis and 4 at St. Stephen will be commenced early in 1952. There were no completion during 1951.

Traditional houses

During the year 6 bungalows for Aged Persons were completed and a further 2 bungalows and 4 houses were under construction.

The total number of houses now owned by the Council has reached 501. Six Old Persons' Bungalows only have been built during the year. The total number of applicants for Council houses remains fairly static; a total of 553 appear on the waiting list. The past procedure for the letting of Council houses is still adhered to - the applications are renewable every 6 months and consideration is given to information supplied by the Public Health Department regarding overcrowding and insanitary conditions, under which the applicants are living. There is no points system in force but each case is considered according to its individual merits.

The following is an analysis of the applications received:-

(i) Number of applicants without separate houses	296
(ii) Number of applicants with separate houses which are unfit or overcrowded	174
(iii) Number of unmarried persons	47
(iv) Number requiring houses for other reasons	16

Private Enterprise Building

Nine houses have been completed and occupied by private enterprise building during the year.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

We are now concerned with the non-producer retailers in the area of whom there are only a few. Licences have been issued in 3 cases for sale of Tuberculin Tested milk and in 2 cases for sale of Pasteurised milk. These retailers are, of course, non-producers and obtain their milk from various reputable sources.

Meat

All meat inspection at the Ministry of Health Slaughterhouse at Lane is still being carried out by the Sanitary Inspector of Newquay. The inspections at the St. Austell Slaughterhouse are still being shared with the Urban District Inspectors. This slaughterhouse admittedly requires improvements and although the Ministry of Food have agreed to



and have carried out some of the work, much remains to be done.

### Tinned Food

Rather more tinned foods than usual have been condemned as unfit for human consumption. Many of them because of the mouldy appearance of some imported tinned meats from the Continent.

### Ice Cream

There are 46 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. All these premises are now selling pre-packed ice cream which is obtained from reputable manufacturers.

### Premises where food is prepared or sold

Some of the larger shops in the area have shown a satisfactory improvement.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were recorded:-

Disease	1951 No. of cases	Rate per 1000 population		
		St.Austell Rural 1950	1951	England and Wales 1951
Whooping cough	132	1.61	6.46	3.87
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	0.05	0.05	0.03
Scarlet fever	16	0.24	0.78	1.11
Measles	333	10.71	16.27	14.07
Poliomyelitis				
(a) paralytic	6	0.20	0.29	0.03
(b) non-paralytic	1	0.00	0.05	0.02
Pneumonia	6	0.45	0.29	0.99
Food Poisoning	4	-	0.20	0.13
Erysipelas	2	-	0.09	0.14
Dysentery	1	-	0.05	
Puerperal Fever	1	-	2.91	10.66

Two deaths were reported as due to whooping cough, one to cerebro-spinal fever, one to poliomyelitis and one to measles.

Whooping cough is now the most important of the infectious diseases and it is particularly dangerous in the very young. The two deaths recorded were in infants under 1 year of age. There is little doubt that the new prophylactic immunisation does give very considerable protection. Every effort should be made to shield the very young from their school children brothers and sisters who have acquired the disease.

It is surprising that the outbreak of measles should have continued into the second year as the usual epidemic is biennial.

The outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in the early part of the year in the St.Columb district. Associated cases occurred at St.Mawgan and at Carbis in the Roche district. It was thought at the time that infection was brought in through the children living at the R.A.F.Camp at St.Merryn who attend schools at St.Mawgan and St.Columb. Many of these children had recently returned from Malta where an outbreak of poliomyelitis had occurred.

in the recent past. No source for the last case could be discovered.

The food poisoning cases occurred as a group amongst some holiday makers at Portholland. The source was a tin of fish from which staphylococci were recovered. Recovery in all cases was rapid.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December 1951:-

Age at 31.12.51 i.e. born in year	- 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5-9 1942-46	10-14 1937-41	Total under 15 years
No. immunised	9	108	116	127	158	660	455	1633
Estimated mid- year population			1655			2732		4387
Percentage immunised			31.3			40.7		37.2

The above figures are derived from doctors' returns and are considerably lower for the 0 - 5 age group than those obtained from nurses. There is little doubt that the number immunised is at about the lower level of safety. There has been little response to the publicity campaign and the only way to improve matters is for the district nurse to visit and persuade the parents.

During the year 301 primary immunisations were carried out, and 1203 boosting doses given to school children.

### Tuberculosis

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1951. Deaths in this table are those of registered cases who may die from other causes:-

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 yr.								
1-4								
5-9			1	1				
10-14		1						
15-19	1	1			1			
20-24	1	2				1		
25-34	1	4		2		3		
35-44	2	1			2	1		
45-54	5							
55-64					1			
65-74	1							
Over 75					1			
Total	11	9	1	3	5	5	0	0

At the end of December 1951 there were 101 cases of pulmonary and 28 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the register as compared with 95 and 25 respectively for the year 1950.

The death rate for the year was 0.49 per 1000 population as compared with 0.31 for England and Wales.

The Council house 8.5% of all cases of tuberculosis. This figure is low compared with other areas. The chance of acquiring tuberculosis is at least five times greater for those who are house contacts of a case, and the Council can contribute to prevention by making houses available and so allowing adequate segregation of cases.

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948

Part I

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	17	10
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	73	27
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-
TOTAL		90	37

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	ReMedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	4	4	4	-	1
TOTAL		4	4	-	1

There are no outworkers in the district.



